IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3, 5, 10, 11, 13, 15, amend claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 12, 14 and add new claims 16-26 as indicated in the following Listing of All Pending Claims of the present application.

Listing of All Pending Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing a user of a wireless communications device to participate in an instant messaging service, wherein the wireless communications device is connectable to a wireless communication network adapted to handle messages in short message service format, ~~and wherein the wireless communication network includes a proxy server,~~ the method comprising:

~~receiving an indication that the wireless communications device is placed in an active state;~~

providing a proxy server connected to the wireless communication network and a data network, wherein the instant messaging service is available on the data network;

establishing a data connection between the wireless communications device and the wireless communications network to indicate that the wireless communications device is in an active state;

terminating said data connection between said wireless communications device and the wireless communications network;

receiving an indication from the wireless communication network to the proxy server that the wireless communications device is in the active state;

~~establishing a data connection between the wireless communications device and the wireless communications network;~~

transmitting from the proxy server to the instant messaging service presence information indicating that the user is online; and

~~terminating said data connection; and~~

maintaining said presence information for the user while the wireless communications device remains in said active state.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising

receiving at the proxy server an instant message from a sender <u>on the data</u>
<u>network</u>, said instant message addressed to the user; and

intercepting said instant message<u>; and</u>

<u>notifying the user that said instant message has been received</u>.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim <u>2</u> 3, wherein said notifying comprises

converting at least a portion of said instant message to short message service
format; and

sending said converted message to the user.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising converting an identifier of the
sender of said instant message to short message service format and sending said
identifier to the user in conjunction with said converted message.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim <u>2</u> 3, wherein said notifying comprises
transmitting a message to the user in short message service format that an instant
message has been received.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said message transmitted to the user
includes an identifier associated with the sender of the instant message.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim <u>2</u> 3, further comprising:

storing said instant message;

establishing a <u>second</u> data connection between the wireless communications

device and the wireless communications network; and

transmitting said stored instant message to the wireless communications device over said <u>second</u> data connection.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim <u>2,</u> ~~10, wherein said receiving comprises~~ <u>further comprising the steps of</u>:

<u>receiving</u> at the proxy server <u>from the wireless communications device</u> a <u>response</u> message transmitted in short message service format;

converting the <u>response</u> message to instant message format; and

transmitting the <u>converted response</u> message <u>over the data network</u> ~~in instant message format~~.

Aa

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, <u>further comprising:</u> ~~wherein said receiving an indication that the wireless communications device is no longer in an active state comprises:~~

transmitting at least one message in short message service format to the wireless communications device; ~~and~~

determining that at least one said message in short message service format is undeliverable<u>; and</u>

<u>transmitting from the proxy server to the instant messaging service presence information indicating that the user is offline.</u>

15. (Cancelled)

16. (new) A system for providing a wireless communications device access to an instant messaging service coupled to a data network, the system comprising:

a wireless communication network adapted to communicate short messages in a short message format to the wireless communications device utilizing a data connection of a plurality of data connections, the wireless communications device communicating an active state status on the wireless communication network utilizing an initial data connection of the plurality of data connections, wherein the initial data connection is terminated upon the establishment of the active state status;

the data network for transmitting instant messages between a plurality of information handling systems, wherein the plurality of information handling systems are logged into the instant messaging service;

a proxy server having a first connection to the wireless communication network for sending and receiving the short messages, and a second connection to the data network for sending and receiving instant messages, wherein the proxy server is logged into the instant messaging service to provide an instant messaging proxy presence for the wireless communications device when the wireless communications device is in the active state status and when the data connection is either active or terminated.

17. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein the proxy server intercepts an instant message addressed to the wireless communications device, and notifies the wireless communications device that the instant messages addressed to the wireless communications device has been received.

18. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the proxy server converts at least a portion of the instant message to the short message format, and sends a converted message to the wireless communications device through the wireless communications network.

19. (New) The system of claim 18, wherein the proxy server further converts an identifier of the sender of the instant message to the short message format and sends the converted identifier of the sender in conjunction the converted message.

20. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the proxy server notifies the wireless communications device utilizing a short message format notification message.

21. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the short message format notification message includes an identifier associated with the sender of the at least one instant message.

22. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein the short message format is a short message service (SMS) format, and wherein the wireless communication network comprises a short messaging service center connected to the proxy server for storing the instant messages.

23. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein the proxy server intercepts a response short message from the wireless communications device to an instant message user, converts the response short message to an instant message format response message, and sends the instant message response message to the instant message user.

24. (New) The system claim 16, wherein the proxy server receives an indication that the wireless communications device is in an inactive state, and wherein the proxy server transmits the inactive state indication to the instant messaging service presence information to inform the instant messaging service that the user is offline.

25. (New) A method for providing a wireless communications device access to an instant messaging service on a data network, the method comprising the steps of:

   providing a wireless communication network adapted to communicate short message service (SMS) messages to the wireless communications device through a data connection of a plurality of wireless data connections;

communicating an active state status from the wireless communications device to the wireless communication network utilizing at least one connection of the plurality of wireless data connections;

terminating the at least one connection upon the establishment of the active state status;

transmitting the active state status from the wireless communication network to a proxy server; and

providing an instant messaging proxy presence from the proxy server to the instant messaging service upon receipt of the active state status, wherein the proxy server is a stand-in wireless communications device which maintains an online status for sending and receiving instant messages on the data network.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 further comprising the steps of:

the proxy server intercepting at least one instant message intended for the wireless communications device;

the proxy server converting at least a portion of the at least one instant message to an SMS format received message; and

the proxy server sending the SMS format received message to the wireless communication network.